# CHAPTEE XIII

CAKNIVORA [1]—FISSIPEDIA

## Order VII, CARNIVORA

THIS order may be thus defined:—Small to large quadrupeds, terrestrial, arboreal, or aquatic, of usually carnivorous habits. The teeth have generally sharp and cutting edges, and the canines are well developed; the incisors are small, and four to six in number. The number of toes is never less than four. There are usually strong and sharp claws. The clavicles are incomplete or absent. In the hand the scaphoid and lunar bones are always united. The brain is well developed, and the hemispheres are well convoluted. The stomach is always simple, while the caecum, if present, is always small. The members of this group have a deciduate and zonary placenta.

The fewness of the characters used in the above definition is chiefly owing to the fact that the Seals and Sea-lions, although they are referable without a doubt to this order, have undergone in their metamorphosis into aquatic animals so many changes that some of the main features in the structure of their terrestrial relatives have been lost. This group will, however, be again characterised. We shall deal at present with the land division of the Carnivom, the CARNIVOBA FISSIPEDIA as they are generally termed. The name is of course given to them to distinguish them from the corresponding division of the PINNIPEDIA. In the latter group the feet and hands are modified into " fins "; in the other the fingers and toes are cleft, as with terrestrial beasts generally.

[1] **lor a general account of the osteology, see Flower, *Froc. ZooL Soc.* 1869, p. 4; awl for muscular anatomy, "Windle and Parsons, *Proc. ZooL Soc.* 1897, p. 370, and**